



For Immediate Release

IDOC Inmates Give Back to Prison Program

Indianapolis, IN (June 4, 2010) –Over the past few weeks, inmates throughout the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) have been raising money for an extraordinary cause, the Wee Ones Nursery program located inside the walls of the Indiana Women's Prison (IWP).

The Wee Ones Nursery Program (WON) is a voluntary program offered at IWP to eligible pregnant offenders with the intent of providing parenting education and to ensure quality time to strengthen the mother-infant bond during the initial months after the infant's birth. For funding, the WON program currently relies on grants and donations.

When facilities throughout the state were asked to send donations to help the program, the response was incredible. Almost half of IDOC facilities have sent in money and supplies. Within the first week, the amount totaled over \$4000. Currently, over \$5,660 has been collected, with more continuing to pour in.

All of the funds donated were raised through offender fundraisers, ranging from cash donations to food sales. IDOC Staff helped oversee the fundraisers, but the money came directly from the offenders themselves.

Among the facilities that have donated are: the Correctional Industrial Facility, Indian State Prison, Edinburgh, Madison, Miami, Pendleton, Plainfield, Putnamville, Wabash Valley, and Westville Correctional Facilities. Staff at the Reception Diagnostic Center, IDOC's male intake unit, have also collected baby food, diapers, clothing and cash donations.

In addition to the money already collected, an additional \$1000-\$1,500 is anticipated to come from fundraisers at the Indianapolis Re-Entry Educational Facility, Branchville, and South Bend Juvenile Correctional Facilities.

"Giving selflessly to others is an important lesson and component of an offender's rehabilitation. Every year, our offenders donate their time and money to various charities and organizations in the communities outside of prison walls. It is an extraordinary opportunity to see offenders taking the initiative to raise money for an equally unique and wonderful offender program."

The WON program began at IWP in early 2008 for eligible pregnant offenders. Since its inception, over 30 infants and their mothers have enjoyed the benefits of the Wee Ones Nursery. Earlier this year the [WON](#) program received donations from members of the Indiana General Assembly at a baby shower hosted by the Women's Caucus, POWER (Political Organization for Women's Education and Representation) group.

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Media Contact:

Doug Garrison
302 W. Washington St
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317.234.5780
dsgarrison@idoc.in.gov